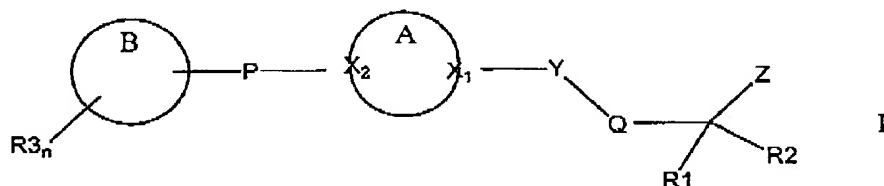


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Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in this application:

1. (Previously presented) A compound of the formula I



wherein ring B represents a pyridyl ring;

each R3 is independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, NO₂, COOR wherein R is hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl, CN, CF₃, C₁₋₆ alkyl, -S-Cl₆ alkyl, -SO-C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy and up to C₁₀ aryloxy, n is 1, 2, or 3;

P is -(CH₂)_n- wherein n = 0, 1, 2, or P is an alkene or alkyne chain of up to six carbon atoms;

Ring A represents a piperazinyl ring optionally mono- or di- substituted by a C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₁₋₆ alkoxy, wherein said C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₁₋₆ alkoxy may independently be further substituted with a halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl or an oxo group;

X₁ and X₂ are N;

Y is selected from -SO₂- and -CO-;

Z is -CONHOH, Y is -CO- and Q is selected from -C(R6)(R7)-, -C(R6)(R7)-CH₂-, -N(R6)-, and -N(R6)-CH₂- wherein R6 is as defined above, and solely in relation to Q as here defined, R6 may also represent up to C₁₀ aryl and up to C₉ heteroaryl, and R7 is H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, or together with R6 forms a carbocyclic or heterocyclic spiro 5, 6 or 7 membered ring, the latter containing at least one heteroatom selected from N, O, and S;

Z is -CONHOH, Y is -SO₂- and Q is selected from -C(R6)(R7)-, and -C(R6)(R7)-CH₂-;

or Z is -N(OH)CHO and Q is selected from -CH(R6)-, -CH(R6)-CH₂-, and -N(R6)-CH₂-;

R1 is H, or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

Z is selected from -COOH, -CONHOH, -N(OH)CHO and N(OH)COR wherein R is C₁₋₆ alkyl, up to C₁₀ aryl and up to C₉ aralkyl

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And R2 is a ring having 5-7 ring atoms and comprising one or two ring heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur, the ring being optionally substituted by (i) Y-R9 wherein R9 is C₁₋₆ alkyl, up to C₁₀ aryl, up to C₁₂ aralkyl or up to C₁₂ heteroaryl(hetero)alkyl, or (ii) Y-T-R9 wherein Y and R9 are as previously defined and T is oxygen or N-R8 wherein R8 is hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl, the heteroatom(s) being independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur; R9 and R8 independently being optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen, NO₂, CN, CF₃, C₁₋₆ alkyl, -S-C₁₋₆ alkyl, -SO-C₁₋₆ alkyl, -SO₂-C₁₋₆ alkyl and C₁₋₆ alkoxy;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable precursor thereof.

2. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 and wherein:

R3 is hydrogen, halogen, NO₂, CF₃, C₁₋₄ alkyl, and C₁₋₄ alkoxy;

n is 1 or 2;

P is -(CH₂)_n- wherein n is 0 or 1;

one or both of X2 and X1 = N;

Y is -SO₂- or -CO-;

Q is -CH(R6)-, -CH(R6)-CH₂-, -N(R6)-, and -N(R6)-CH₂- wherein R6 is hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl; when Q = -N(R6)- or -N(R6)-CH₂- then Y may also be -CS-, also Q may be linked to R1 or R2 to form a 5-7 alkyl or heteroalkyl ring;

R1 = hydrogen, or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

Z = -CONHOH- or -N(OH)CHO

and R2 is a ring having 5-7 ring atoms and comprising one or two ring heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur, the ring being optionally substituted by (i) Y-R9 wherein R9 is C₁₋₆ alkyl, up to C₁₀ aryl, up to C₁₂ aralkyl or up to C₁₂ heteroaryl(hetero)alkyl, or (ii) Y-T-R9 wherein Y and R9 are as stated in claim 1 and T is oxygen or N-R8 wherein R8 is hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl, the heteroatom(s) being independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur; R9 and R8 independently being optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen, NO₂, CN, CF₃, C₁₋₆ alkyl, -S-C₁₋₆ alkyl, -SO-C₁₋₆ alkyl, -SO₂-C₁₋₆ alkyl and C₁₋₆ alkoxy;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable precursor thereof.

3. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 and wherein:

R3 is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, NO₂, CF₃, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy;

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ring B is phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl and pyridazinyl;

P is a direct bond;

both X2 and X1 are N;

Y is -SO₂-;

Q is -CH₂-;

R2 is a ring having 5-7 ring atoms and comprising one or two ring heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur, the ring being optionally substituted by (i) Y-R9 wherein Y is as stated in claim 1 and R9 is C₁₋₆ alkyl or alkylamino, up to C₁₀ aryl or arylamino, up to C₁₂ aralkyl or aralkylamino, up to C₁₂ heteroaryl(hetero)alkyl, R9 independently being optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen, NO₂, CN, CF₃, C₁₋₆ alkyl, -S-C₁₋₆ alkyl, -SO-C₁₋₆ alkyl, -SO₂-C₁₋₆ alkyl and C₁₋₆ alkoxy;

R1 is hydrogen

Z is -N(OH)CHO;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable precursor thereof.

4. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 and wherein:

R3 is methoxy, fluorine or 4-fluoro;

ring A is unsubstituted;

R2 is optionally substituted 3-piperidinyl, 4-piperidinyl or N-substituted 4-piperidinyl, or wherein the substituents are as stated in claim 3;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable precursor thereof.

5. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 and wherein R2 is 3- or 4-piperidinyl, optionally N-substituted by Y-R9 wherein Y is as stated in claim 1 and R9 is C₁₋₄ alkyl or alkylamino, C₆ aryl or arylamino, up to C₁₀ aralkyl or aralkylamino or up to C₁₀ heteroaryl(hetero)alkyl, R9 independently being optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen, CF₃, and C₁₋₄ alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable precursor thereof.

6. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of the formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or an in vivo hydrolysable ester and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently amended) A method of treating a metalloproteinase mediated disease condition which comprises administering to a warm-blooded animal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 ~~the formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable ester thereof, wherein the metalloproteinase mediated disease is selected from the group consisting of matrix metalloproteinases, collagenases, gelatinases, stromelysins, matrilysin, metalloelastase, enamelysin, and MT-MMPs.~~

9-13. (Cancelled).